



Squamish Hospice Society



Squamish Hospice Embarks on Pilot Project

October 1st 2007 marked the launching of a pilot project to employ a Hospice and Bereavement Coordinator for Squamish and the Sea to Sky Corridor. The Vancouver Coastal Health Authority has accepted this position on contract. This means this position is funded by Hospice but becomes an integral part of Health Care delivery. This is a very exciting and important step in the evolution of Hospice work in this community and gives Hospice a face and a presence in the hospital where patients and care givers can easily access Hospice support. The mandate of this position is to meet palliative care patients and their families and organize volunteer support wherever it is needed; and to meet all bereaved families and seek to support them in their journey through loss. There will also be the creation of a Bereavement Information package that will be used for patients throughout the corridor.

There is no social worker at the Hospital

and currently families who are bereaved, whose loved ones were *not* on the palliative care program, are not offered any grief or social support. A large part of this project will be to collect and collate data around the needs of bereaved families and determine what kinds of programs and assistance would best meet those needs. Currently there is and has been bereavement support in this community, a support group, a walking program and grief counseling which in the past has sometimes not been well utilized. This project will help us assess current programs and also help people to access them. The services of the Hospice Ombudsman will also be available to families who need more practical assistance navigating their way through wills, pensions etc.



We are pleased to welcome Grace Neudorf

to this position. Grace currently works in her family business and brings a wealth of organizational and administrative skill to us. In addition to a busy family life Grace is herself an active volunteer with the Howe Sound Performing Arts Assoc. and is all too familiar with volunteerism. Grace is already becoming a familiar face at the Hospital and has been busy organizing volunteers and has begun her work in Bereavement support. We look forward to working with Grace and a busy 6 months of growth and the fostering of Hospice support.

Hospice Society Amalgamates with The Squamish Bereavement Support Group

The Squamish Bereavement Support Group "Courage to Grieve" started slowly in 2004 with The Living Through Loss Counseling Society of B.C. (LTLC) funding the first two six-week facilitated groups. Wendy Sellers with initial training from LTLC and the financial backing of the Squamish United Church continued to offer the groups. In the spring of 2006 Liz Wood joined Wendy and together that fall they commuted to Vancouver to take a seven-week course entitled Bereavement Training For Professionals. In September 2006 they received a \$5000.00 grant from the Squamish Community Foundation to assist in the furthering of education and establishment of bereavement groups in the community. Wendy & Liz have been facilitators and general 'do-it-yourself' managers of this program, doing everything from facilitating to creating, publishing and distributing brochures & posters, speaking at community forums and fundraising, to making the coffee and cookies for their meetings. They embarked on this ambitious program at a time when there was minimal bereavement support in Squamish and a huge gap in the services to this community. That the two of them alone have managed to sustain this program for this long is a testament to their hard work & the commitment that they have to this work. Well done Wendy & Liz and we are pleased to have you join our family of volunteers and work under the Hospice Society umbrella. They have just completed a 6 week course and will be starting another on January 28th for 6 weeks, last day March 3rd.. The group meets 7-9 p.m. and will be held at the Sea to Sky Community Services main office 38144 2nd Ave. Individuals can call Wendy at 604-892-1552 or contact her at couragetogrieve@shaw.ca

Special points of interest:

- *Hospice Society Amalgamates with the Squamish Bereavement Support Group*

Phone 604-848-5781

e-mail: hospice.seatosky@vch.ca

Website: squamishhospice.com

Fall Newsletter 2007 & Season's Greetings!

Successful Grant Applications!

At the BC Hospice Palliative Care Conference Squamish Hospice, represented by Dr. Judith Fothergill, was presented with the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem Grant in the amount of \$4000 for enhanced End of Life Care. These funds have enabled us in part to embark on the pilot project and are specifically targeted for Grief Support, the assessment of current programs and how they do or do not meet community needs and how best we can address any unmet needs. Our thanks to the Provincial Hospice Organization for their support.

We have been grateful recipients of 2 grants from the Squamish Community Foundation.

The first was for a public awareness campaign which we had in the fall. This has enabled us to run advertisements, distribute a flyer and create some posters that we will be able to use over and over again. As with any new program 'getting the word out' can be a slow process and we are hoping that that we reached some people who might otherwise have not heard about us.



The second grant from the Squamish Community Foundation is another contribution to the Pilot project. The Foundation rules do not allow it to support salaries but did give us the funds needed for the creation of the Bereavement Package, one of the goals of the pilot project. We are fortunate to have such a Foundation in our community and are grateful for their generous support. Thank you Squamish Community Foundation.

Volunteers, volunteers, volunteers!!!!

Fund Raising Committee

Not all volunteers are 'visiting volunteers' and we have need of all kinds of volunteers. We are happy to welcome new volunteers Beth Olson and Debbie Hughson who joined Bonnie Golaiy, Donna Sandberg and Gloria Healy to start a fund raising committee. If the energy of this group is anything to go by we can look forward to some successful and fun fund raising! Bonnie is already running some 50/50 draws at HTH and has generated almost \$500. By popular demand Bonnie is hoping she will be able to continue this draw on a monthly basis.

On Dec 1st at the Craft Fair in Brennan Park,

Hospice had a Remembrance Tree to which members of the public could attach messages in memory of their loved ones. Thanks Bonnie, Debbie, Donna & Beth for organizing this event. What a great idea and what a great way to start our Christmas season by remembering our loved ones. There was also many yummy goodies to be had from our bake sale and over \$500 was raised for Hospice. Thanks to all the volunteers who supported this by their presence and their baking.



Debbie and Hal Hughson raised over \$100 in their own inimitable fashion with a Grey Cup Football Pool. Thanks Debbie & Hal!



Society Membership

Linda Lawrence will add to her volunteer duties by taking over the organization & management of our membership list. Our initial membership drive garnered over 100 members and we haven't so far been very good at looking after them. Linda will try to keep our members informed and make that list grow! Linda is off to her native South Africa for a couple of months and we will look forward to her return. Have a great vacation Linda!

Grant application

Kevin McLane, one of the first of our volunteers to be trained; conceived of, planned and put hours of thought and work into writing an application to the District of

Squamish for a Grant-In - Aid. The application was for funds to continue the pilot project for a further 6 months. Another 6 months could be the key to helping us achieve our goal of making this position an integral part of the health care delivered by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. Good luck Kevin!

Sharing the Loss

Hospice and the Bereavement Support Group were pleased to host an Evening of Remembrance at the Squamish Public Library. Kristi Bane -Allen shared with us the story of her journey through the loss of her brother. Sharing someone else's grief can sometimes be a catalyst for expressing one's own grief and we hope that for those who attended, it was a time for reflection and an opportunity to remember with love those they have lost. Kristi's experience with her brother's illness and death and the support her family received from Hospice has drawn her to this work and she is a very welcome member of our group of volunteers. There was an opportunity to add pictures in memory to a quilt, donated by Gloria Healy for the occasion, in memory of her mother. The quilt will hang in the Public library for a short while. Our thanks to the staff of the Squamish Public Library for their support and to Darcy Reimer, one of our Board members for hosting the evening.



Finally the volunteer 'publisher' of this newsletter is Kelly Tucker. Kelly has a day job as a busy Realtor but fortunately for us

has lots of creative talent. She is pretty handy with a camera and she does a great job putting this Newsletter together. This would be a pretty dull affair without her finishing touch. Kelly brings the same energy to the patients she visits and we are glad she's on the team! Thanks Kelly!



What have our volunteers been doing?

Well, aside from the public awareness and fund raising activities you have been reading about, they have put in over 400 hours visiting patients in their homes and in hospital. In the first 6 months that we were 'operating' we cared for 9 patients, last month, in a single month we were visiting 8 patients and using just about every available volunteer. We are honoured to be allowed into people's lives and it is a privilege to be supporting them as they face end of life challenges.

We need more volunteers!

Next volunteer training January 08

Call 604-848-5751

Board of Directors

Gloria Healy
Dr. Judith Fothergill
Nancy Edwards
Lois Cudmore
Penelope Kalopisi - Kennedy
Rev. Darcy Reimer
Pam Lang R.N.
Patsy Riecker
Hazel Giese